

SANDERS LAW GROUP

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Attorneys for Plaintiff

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

Christopher Sadowski,

Plaintiff,

v.

Santa Monica Observer
Newspaper,

Defendant.

Case No. 2:25-cv-03248-AB-AGR

**DECLARATION OF
CHRISTOPHER SADOWSKI IN
SUPPORT OF PLAINTIFF'S
MOTION FOR DEFAULT
JUDGMENT**

CHRISTOPHER SADOWSKI, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1746, hereby declares under penalty of perjury, as follows:

1. I am the plaintiff in the above-captioned matter. As such, I have personal knowledge of the facts set forth in this Declaration and would testify as to them in a court of law if required to do so.

2. I respectfully submit this declaration in support of Plaintiff's Motion for Default Final Judgment against defendant Santa Monica Observer Newspaper ("Defendant") pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 55(b) and the Court's inherent power,

1 granting Plaintiff's default judgment against Defendant.

2 3. I am a professional photographer and I am the legal and rightful owner
3 of photographs in which I transferred the rights to Plaintiff. Plaintiff licenses these
4 photographs to online and print publications.

5 4. I have invested significant time and money in building our portfolio.

6 5. My photographs are original, creative works in which I own protectable
7 copyright interests.

8 6. I have obtained active and valid copyright registrations from the United
9 States Copyright Office (the "USCO") which cover many of my photographs while
10 many others are the subject of pending copyright applications.

11 7. On September 4, 2010, I first authored a photograph of a portion of a
12 cruise ship (the "Photograph"). *A screen grab of the Photograph is attached to the*
13 *Complaint as Dkt. No. 1-1.*

14 8. The Photograph was originally published by the New York Post with
15 my copyright credit at URL: [https://nypost.com/2021/12/12/passengers-suspect-](https://nypost.com/2021/12/12/passengers-suspect-foul-play-after-woman-falls-overboard-carnival-cruise-ship/)
16 [foul-play-after-woman-falls-overboard-carnival-cruise-ship/](https://nypost.com/2021/12/12/passengers-suspect-foul-play-after-woman-falls-overboard-carnival-cruise-ship/).

17 9. In creating the Photograph, I personally selected the subject matter,
18 timing, lighting, angle, perspective, depth, lens and camera equipment to capture the
19 image.

20 10. On December 31, 2021, the Photograph was registered by the USCO
21 under Registration No. VA 2-228-279. *A copy of the certificate of copyright*
22 *registration is attached hereto as Exhibit 1.*

23 11. Defendant owns and operates a website known as
24 www.smobserved.com (the "Website").

25 12. On or about December 18, 2021, Defendant displayed the Photograph
26 on the Website at URL:
27 <https://www.smobserved.com/story/2021/12/15/news/woman-overboard->
28

1 oncarnival-cruise-ship-is-being-investigated-as-a-murder/6280.html (the
2 “Infringement”).

3 13. The Photograph was stored on the Website at URL:
4 https://www.smobserved.com/home/cms_data/default/photos/stories/id/8/0/6280/TEMP/s_topTEMP425x425-2047.jpeg.
5

6 14. I discovered the Infringement on April 16, 2022.

7 15. I did not give permission or authorization to Defendant to copy, store
8 and/or display my copyright protected Photograph.

9 16. The Infringement is an exact copy of my original Photograph that was
10 directly copied by Defendant on its Website.

11 17. Upon information and belief, the Photograph was willfully and
12 volitionally posted to the Website by Defendant.

13 18. Upon information and belief, the Infringement increased traffic to the
14 Website and, in turn, caused Defendant to realize an increase in its revenue.

15 19. Upon information and belief, Defendant has received a financial benefit
16 directly attributable to the Infringement.

17 20. As a result of Defendant's misconduct, I have been substantially
18 harmed.

19 21. I have also been substantially disadvantaged by Defendant's default in
20 this case, as I have no information to establish the profits Defendant earned which
21 are attributable or related to its theft and use of my Photograph. As a result, I am
22 constrained to asking this Court for an award of statutory damages.

23 22. Attached is a Getty estimate for \$2,570 for a similar image used in a
24 similar manner in which Defendant used it.

25 23. Because Defendant's infringement was willful, I respectfully ask that
26 the Court award of five (5) times the licensing fee, as a deterrent to Defendant and
27 others who would steal our Photographs upon the belief that they would be required
28

1 to pay nothing more than the licensing fee, if and only if they are caught.

2 24. I declare under penalty of perjury of the laws of the State of California
3 and of the United States of America that I have read this Declaration and that the
4 foregoing is true and correct.

5
6 Executed this ___ day of October 2025

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8 _____
9 Christopher Sadowski
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DECLARATION OF CHRISTOPHER SADOWSKI
EXHIBIT 1 – REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE

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Certificate of Registration



This Certificate issued under the seal of the Copyright Office in accordance with title 17, *United States Code*, attests that registration has been made for the work identified below. The information on this certificate has been made a part of the Copyright Office records.

Shirley Perlmutter
United States Register of Copyrights and Director

Registration Number

VA 2-288-279

Effective Date of Registration:

December 31, 2021

Registration Decision Date:

February 25, 2022

Copyright Registration for a Group of Published Photographs

Registration issued pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 202.4(i)

For Photographs Published: September 30, 2021 to December 30, 2021

Title

Title of Group: 2021-Q4 Photo Collection
Number of Photographs in Group: 375

- **Individual Photographs:** 080721nypdarmpatch15CS
Published: September 2021
- **Individual Photographs:** 011217fort27CS,
040821emptystreets17CS,
040821emptystreets20CS,
040821emptystreets24CS,
041718whatsapp5CS,
042620nypdsubstation2CS,
051421columbus7CS,
051421subwayfacemask37CS,
052021carriagehorse7CS,
052921consumerspensing1CS,
053121covidvaccinecard2CS,
060619fdrdrive8CS,
061820criminalcourt6CS,
061820criminalcourt17CS,
061821amazonprime7CS,
062219taxi5CS,
062520outdoordining1CS,
062520outdoordining8CS,
071218metronorth32CS,
072419precinct7CS,
080620lirr5CS,
080620trainseats4CS,
080721nypdarmpatch24CS,
081317bwb19CS,
081317nabisco1CS,
081419tollplaza6CS,
081921catalytic2CS,
090221stabbing3CS,
090420fourtimesquare1CS,
091521shooting16CS,

091521shooting25CS,
091521shooting26CS,
091521studentmask3CS,
091521studentmask6CS,
091721carminesvax17CS,
092321cruiseships5CS,
092921party3CS,
092921party6CS,
092921party9CS,
093021helpwanted3CS,
100321crash3CS,
100321crash6CS,
100321crash8CS,
100321shooting5CS,
100520stimulus4CS,
100621doubleshooting8CS,
100621doubleshooting9CS,
100621doubleshooting15CS,
100621doubleshooting17CS,
100721bicycliststruck7CS

Published: October 2021

- **Individual Photographs:** 100721bicycliststruck9CS,
100721party1CS,
100721party12CS,
100821fire1CS,
100821fire3CS,
100921employment2CS,
100921interview3CS,
101021kardashian1CS,
101121nowhiring8CS,
101321immigrants1CS,
101321immigrants2CS,
101321immigrants3CS,
101321immigrants4CS,
101321immigrants5CS,
101321immigrants6CS,
101321immigrants7CS,
101321immigrants8CS,
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101321immigrants27CS,



101321immigrants28CS,
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101321immigrants34CS,
101321immigrants35CS,
101321immigrants36CS,
101321immigrants37CS,
101321immigrants38CS,
101321immigrants39CS,
101321immigrants40CS,
101321immigrants41CS

Published: October 2021

- **Individual Photographs:** 101421immigrants1CS,
101421immigrants2CS,
101421immigrants3CS,
101421immigrants4CS,
101421immigrants5CS,
101421immigrants6CS,
101421immigrants7CS,
101421immigrants8CS,
101421immigrants9CS,
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101421immigrants39CS,
101421immigrants40CS,
101421immigrants41CS,
101421immigrants42CS,

101421immigrants43CS,
101421immigrants44CS,
101521immigrants1CS,
101521immigrants2CS,
101521immigrants3CS,
101521immigrants4CS,
101521immigrants5CS,
101521immigrants6CS

Published: October 2021

- **Individual Photographs:** 101521immigrants7CS,
101521immigrants8CS,
101521immigrants9CS,
101521immigrants10CS,
101521immigrants11CS,
101521immigrants12CS,
101521immigrants13CS,
101521immigrants14CS,
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101521immigrants16CS,
101521immigrants17CS,
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101521immigrants42CS,
101521immigrants43CS,
101521immigrants44CS,
101521immigrants45CS,
101521immigrants46CS,
101621wedding60CS,
101621wedding63CS,
101621wedding76CS,
101621wedding77CS,
101621wedding78CS,
102321pcti9CS,
102821ciattarelli20CS,
110520embrace3CS,



111919uscourthouse36CS,
121020outdoordining10CS
Published: October 2021

- **Individual Photographs:** 010510arenas13CS,
012419lirr5CS,
020820pressconference39CS,
032321homedepot2CS,
032918fedexups4CS,
040518uft9CS,
041821amazonprime1CS,
042719westsideyard2CS,
052020highwaypatrol7CS,
060221apartments4CS,
061221vaccinecard2CS,
061319construction7CS,
071218metronorth34CS,
071317bus43CS,
071620shooting10CS,
071707_Steakhouse_6CS,
080919lottery10CS,
082121doubleshooting4CS,
090216barclays6CS,
090321apartments5CS,
091721undercontract13CS,
102321gasprices2CS,
102321gasprices9CS,
102421nowhiring7CS,
102421nowhiring9CS,
102821ciattarelli31CS,
110219jerseycity4CS,
110521apartment1CS,
110521fatalfire2CS,
110621fatalshooting5CS,
110621fatalshooting11CS,
110621fatalshooting20CS,
110621fatalshooting28CS,
111021baldwin4CS,
111021baldwin8CS,
111021baldwin12CS,
111021baldwin14CS,
111021fire1CS,
111021fire6CS,
111021fire7CS,
111321christmastree17CS,
111721multishooting1CS,
111721multishooting2CS,
111721multishooting3CS,
111721multishooting4CS,
111721subwaystabbing1CS,
111721subwaystabbing7CS,
111821bergdorf14CS,
111821bergdorf15CS,
111821bergdorf48CS,
111821bergdorf75CS,
111821cashman1CS,
111821cashman10CS,
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111921fire9CS,
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 112121stabbing38CS,
 112220fire2CS,
 112220fire9CS,
 112421copshot37CS,
 112421copshot38CS,
 112421copshot39CS,
 112421copshot40CS,
 112621sondheim1CS,
 112621sondheim4CS,
 112621sondheim8CS

Published: November 2021

- **Individual Photographs:** 011217beach1CS,
 030321construction2CS,
 040821emptystreets1CS,
 040821homeless1CS,
 041521infrastructure1CS,
 042220nycskyline39CS,
 042918burgerking3CS,
 043020skyline7CS,
 051420trucks8CS,
 051920stimuluscheck29CS,
 062118southwest3CS,
 062219garbagetruck4CS,
 070921apartment2CS,
 071217subway17CS,
 083018nycha2CS,
 090410miracle4CS,
 090812train5CS,
 091521shooting28CS,
 100520money6CS,
 100817sculpture1CS,
 101021kardashian15CS,
 101417stop3CS,
 102118schoolbus24CS,
 111821cashman2CS,
 111821cashman6CS,
 111821cashman12CS,
 112121stabbing11CS,
 112121stabbing41CS,
 120121inflation8CS,
 120221stabbingspree1CS,
 120221stabbingspree2CS,
 120221stabbingspree3CS,



120221stabblingspree4CS,
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 120221stabblingspree18CS,
 120221stabblingspree19CS,
 120221stabblingspree20CS,
 120221stabblingspree21CS

Published: December 2021

- **Individual Photographs:** 120221stabblingspree22CS,
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 120221stabblingspree24CS,
 120221stabblingspree25CS,
 120221stabblingspree26CS,
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 120321pinkney1CS,
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 120421shooting17CS,
 120421subwayshooting1CS,
 120421subwayshooting8CS,
 120421subwayshooting15CS,
 120821shotsfired4CS,
 120821shotsfired5CS,
 120821shotsfired12CS,
 121121shooting4CS,
 121121shooting18CS,
 121621baldwin3CS,
 121721mandates9CS,
 121721mandates12CS,
 121721mandates17CS,
 122119districtattorney5CS,
 122121covidtest3CS,

122121covidtest9CS,
122221covidrestaurant5CS,
122221covidrestaurant9CS,
122221covidrestaurant14CS,
122221covidrestaurant20CS,
122221shooting4CS,
122221shooting8CS,
122921elfonshelf9CS

Published: December 2021

Completion/Publication

Year of Completion: 2021
Earliest Publication Date in Group: September 30, 2021
Latest Publication Date in Group: December 30, 2021
Nation of First Publication: United States

Author

- Author:** Christopher Sadowski
Author Created: photographs
Work made for hire: No
Citizen of: United States
Domiciled in: United States
Year Born: 1982

Copyright Claimant

Copyright Claimant: Christopher Sadowski
96 9th Avenue, Hawthorne, NJ, 07506, United States

Rights and Permissions

Name: Christopher Sadowski
Email: csnyphoto@gmail.com
Telephone: (973)650-5382
Address: 96 9th Avenue
Hawthorne, NJ 07506 United States

Certification

Name: Christopher Sadowski
Date: December 31, 2021

Copyright Office notes: Regarding title information: Deposit contains complete list of titles that correspond to the individual photographs included in this group.



Regarding group registration: A group of published photographs may be registered on one application with one filing fee only under limited circumstances. ALL of the following are required: 1. All photographs (a) were created by the same author AND (b) are owned by the same copyright claimant AND (c) were published in the same calendar year AND 2. The group contains 750 photographs or less AND 3. A sequentially numbered list of photographs containing the title, file name and month of publication for each photograph included in the group must be uploaded along with other required application materials. The list must be submitted in an approved document format such as .XLS or .PDF. The file name for the numbered list must contain the title of the group and the Case Number assigned to the application.

DECLARATION OF CHRISTOPHER SADOWSKI

EXHIBIT 2 – LICENSE

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The license details are shown below. To change any of your selections, click Edit next to the section you want to change. To discard your selections and choose all new ones, click Start over.

License summary

1. Image usage

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Use: Advertising - Print, display and TV

Format: Advertorial

This use covers: Use in an editorial style article (any placement - print or electronic) intended to indirectly promote a product or service. Includes right to archive the image in context of the original scope up to 5 years.

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2. Usage specs

Edit

Start date: 20 Oct 2025

Duration: Up to 2 years

3. Target market

Edit

Territory: United States

Industry: Arts & Entertainment

Start over

Item



Editorial image #:2133947908

\$2,570.00 USD

ADD TO CART

Taxes not applied

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